

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"I bear witness to this people that we are redeemed from this change of mortality to immortality, which we call death, through the redemption wrought out by Christ our Lord. He is our Redeemer."—ANTHONY W. IVINS.

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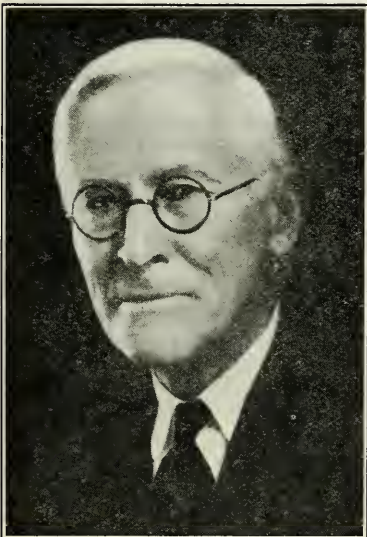
ANTHONY W. IVINS—BELOVED AND RESPECTED OF MEN

By ELDER RICHARD S. BENNETT

ANTHONY W. IVINS was a man of peace and quiet ways, nevertheless many of the experiences of his life are as thrilling and romantic as any found in the tales of the novelist. He loved all nature, bleak places, and hardy companions. He was happy with the frontiersman, and the frontiersman was

happy with him. Yet he appeared to advantage among titled nobility and among men of liberal learning. He united the finest sensibilities with the greatest physical courage and the strongest will. He combined the instincts and accomplishments of good breeding with the broadest sympathies and affiliations. He always stood as a fearless tribune of the common people. He was a practical man, and a man of the rarest common sense. In him were found the qualities of the thinker and the writer, and those of the man of action.

"He always led, but he never stepped in front of any other man. He was quiet, modest and unassuming, but no one ever dominated him or did his thinking for him. Back of his humility, beneath his modesty was a lofty self-respect. The fibre of his soul was tender, the timber



PRESIDENT ANTHONY W. IVINS

of his will was strong. The sources of his power lay in the depths of his shining soul. Running through the center of his life was a deep, silent current of righteousness. He possessed to a remarkably high degree the gift of vision and seership—the inherent right of his exalted Church calling. His life, in all of its phases, was such that he may be regarded as a living example of his religious convictions, an epitome of all that is fine and good.”

This was Anthony W. Ivins in the eyes of Bryant S. Hinkley, a man who knew him well. And yet it is only expressive of the high regard in which he was held by all who knew him. Anthony W. Ivins was the friend of men. His fellowship was cherished alike by prince and president, by labourer and financier. However men might have differed from him in opinion, belief, or conviction, none was ever known to speak ill of him. Truly he was beloved and respected.

ON September 16th, the 82nd anniversary of his birth, the entire Church, with his great circle of friends, joined with him in thanksgiving for the preservation of his life beyond man's ordinary span of years, and for his health and vigour of body and mind. From all over America, and from many far parts of the world, came letters of felicitation and congratulation, bearing good wishes for rich years of life yet to come. Just one week later, on September 23rd, his family and friends were plunged into deep sorrow at the knowledge of his death.

The Church, to which he devoted his life, and the community in which he lived will miss President Ivins, for both prospered under his influence and benefitted under the touch of his genius. His contributions to his Church and to his country have been of such a nature that they have formed an inseparable part of every enterprise in which he has had a part—unique, characteristic only of him.

Perhaps no other man in his generation was more loved and respected by people of all creeds, classes, beliefs, and callings than was President Ivins. It was fitting that, numbered among the men, great and small, who cherished his friendship was the Chief Executive of the country to which he gave his allegiance. From President Franklin D. Roosevelt came this greeting on the occasion of President Ivins' last birthday anniversary: “As an old friend, I send you my congratulations and best wishes on your eighty-second birthday.”

The Honourable George H. Dern, Secretary of War in Mr. Roosevelt's Cabinet, added his greeting to the many greetings of the day: “May I extend my heartfelt congratulations and affectionate good wishes on your eighty-second birthday. I hope you may have many more years of usefulness and inspiration to the people of Utah and the neighbouring states.”

Governor Henry H. Blood of the state of Utah gave this tribute to President Ivins on his anniversary day:

When the roll of Utah's outstanding citizens has been made up and engraved on the scroll of history, the name of Anthony W. Ivins will have a prominent place thereon. Community builder, financier, statesman, scholar and churchman, possessed of keen wisdom and sound judgment, he stands out in any group, a man marked among his fellowmen. His undeviating stand for right and his unmeasured loyalty—loyalty to

friends, to his country, to his Church and to his God—are outstanding characteristics of this truly great man. The state is proud to pay tribute to such a man.

Civic and business leaders, too, in the community in which he lived were profuse in their public tributes to President Ivins. Mr. E. O. Howard, one of Utah's most prominent bankers, Mr. Paul F. Keyser, president of the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce, Mr. J. B. Whitehall, president of Rotary—none of them affiliated with the Church—made acknowledgment in the press of President Ivins' great contributions to the community, and gave expression to the deep respect they held for him.

THESE tributes reflect his standing and position among those who knew him in a civic and a social way. His associates in the Church, in their tributes to him, give still further evidence of his sterling greatness. President Heber J. Grant, who, perhaps, was closer to President Ivins than any other living man, made this tribute to him on the occasion of his birthday anniversary:

Anthony W. Ivins, who happens to be a cousin of mine, has been a diligent student from childhood, an outstanding leader of boys, and then of the young men of the Church, having presided as superintendent of the Y.M.M.I.A. in St. George stake, and subsequently as president of the general board having jurisdiction over the entire Church.

He was a member of the presidency of the St. George stake and represented the people of Washington county a number of times in the Utah legislature. I was assured by a number of bankers, merchants and mining men at a meeting, where I was the only member of the Church, that before I came into the meeting they had been discussing my cousin and were unanimous that he was the most outstanding man in the Utah legislature.

While presiding over the Jurarez stake in Mexico, and while president of the Mexican colonization company, he was the outstanding man in the colonies. While visiting President Diaz in company with the late John Henry Smith, Mr. Smith told me that President Diaz remarked, "Mr. Ivins, there is not a man in the entire Mexican republic who is more welcome than you. Every pledge made by your colonization company has been fulfilled to the limit, and it is a real joy to do business with a gentleman who speaks my native tongue as if he were a native born Castilian. It is music to my ears. Come often, come often."

When President Ivins was called from Mexico to become a member of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, the then president of the Council, Francis M. Lyman, opened his doors of welcome by saying: "Anthony W. Ivins, you come into this council the peer of any man in it."

As a city and county official and a legislator, as a cattle and horse man, as a merchant and as a banker, as a Bible and Book of Mormon student, he was a leader. As a maker of friends with the poor Indians of Utah, with boys, young men and men of maturity of high or low standing, with education or without education, he was the most successful of any man I have ever known. From our childhood we have been more like brothers than cousins.

As a student of history I do not know his equal. His great knowledge of the Bible and the Book of Mormon makes him valuable to me as a counsellor in the Presidency of the Church beyond my power to express. In closing this testimonial on behalf of an outstanding personality, I might cite one incident illustrating the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens.

Nearly 40 years ago, the first Democratic convention ever held in Utah wired me asking where they could find him. He was then on the Kaibab Mountain closing up the business of the Kaibab Cattle company prior to

going to Mexico. The telegram stated that they would nominate him by acclamation to be the first governor of the State of Utah.

Taking all in all, I have never known a man so successful in so many ways as Anthony W. Ivins has been. His worth to the Church and the state cannot be overestimated.

President J. Reuben Clark, on this same occasion, made public this appreciation :

In the last analysis, food, clothing and shelter are the basic elements of life ; these we must wrest from nature by work, thrift, honesty, courage and steadfast purpose, for nature can be neither bought, wheedled, outwitted, cheated nor robbed. From these elemental facts there is no escape.

Our pioneer parents understood and lived in strict obedience to these principles. But in building this commonwealth and this Church they had more than these : they had a deep and abiding faith in God, His love, His justice, His mercy, His foreordained plan, His law. No commonwealth was ever built by an idle, licentious, scoffing, unbelieving people, and no church can be so built.

President Anthony W. Ivins was and is a great pioneer of the true type ; he exemplifies the ruggedest virtues of the pioneer ; he was and is a co-builder of a great commonwealth and a great Church. The youth of the state may have him as a living ensample of the true citizen and devout Christian.

THE Council of Twelve, of which President Ivins was a member before being called into the First Presidency, proffered him this warm personal greeting :

Dear President Ivins :

We, the Council of the Twelve, your brethren, join in tendering you our heartiest congratulations, love and best wishes upon this your natal day. Those who know you best love you the most. Your life is an open book and discloses the fact that you have been an exceedingly active man, have passed through a great variety of thrilling experiences, and have held many positions of distinguished honour and trust, culminating in your present exalted station.

Your participation in the conduct of the St. George stake in the days of your young manhood, and later the experiences that came to you during the long years of your presidency of the Juarez stake in Mexico, were an invaluable asset and prepared you for the greater responsibility of today.

The people of Utah, both Church members and non-Church members, have greatly benefited by your leadership in the civil affairs of our beloved Utah. On all sides you are respected and honoured.

Sister Ivins, your estimable wife and companion, has shared with you the hardships and struggles of the past. Surely she is entitled to share with you the honours and successes that followed, and the rewards that are hidden in the future.

Your children, an heritage from the Lord, will be obedient and loyal to you, since you have exercised in their behalf the sacred rights of fatherhood and by precept and example pointed the way to everlasting life.

May the choicest blessings of heaven, dear President Ivins, be granted unto you and unto your loved ones, and may you be yet spared many years to prosecute your labours as a servant of the true and living God.

Sincerely your brethren,

The Council of the Twelve

By RUDGER CLAWSON, President

This was published by the First Council of Seventy :

The First Council of the Seventy join the multitude of admirers in

extending their hearty congratulations and sincere good wishes to President Anthony W. Ivins on this the 82nd anniversary of his natal day.

It has been our privilege and pleasure to be numbered among his co-labourers and to have part with him and under his wise, and efficient leadership, in the greatest work that has ever been undertaken among the children of men—even that “great and marvelous work” which the Lord has set His hand to do in these latter days.

And while congratulating Brother Ivins upon arriving at another mile post in his splendid career, and on the outstanding achievements of a long and useful life, we also congratulate ourselves on having the benefit of his wise counsels and intelligent direction.

May the Lord prolong his life and give him joy and gladness in the exercise of those fine talents with which He has so abundantly endowed him, that they may continue to be employed in behalf of His Church and for the benefit and blessing of His people.

RULON S. WELLS

For the First Council of the Seventy.

CIVIC, political and religious associates were not alone in paying to President Ivins their highest respects. Greetings came to him as “Doctor Ivins” from educational leaders throughout the state of Utah. It was just this past June that the Utah State Agricultural College bestowed upon him education’s highest compliment, an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. President E. G. Peterson, the director of the institution, in prefacing the presentation, gave this sketch of President Ivins’ life:

I arise now to perform a function, in which I am directed by the unanimous action of the board of trustees and the faculty of the college to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon one of the most distinguished and beloved leaders of our state and of the west.

Anthony Woodward Ivins, pioneer, humanitarian, scholar, leader in religious thought—was born at Tom’s River, N. J., 82 years ago this coming 16th of September.

He came of old American stock of English and Dutch extraction on both sides, his parents being cousins. His progenitors had been Quakers since the inception of that society. And the sturdy qualities of the “Friends” were exemplified in him. A year after his birth he moved with his family from New Jersey to Utah, and his early boyhood was spent under the pioneer influences of early Salt Lake. When he was nine his father was called by Brigham Young to help settle Utah’s Dixie, and again he was placed in the rugged pioneer environment which does so much to develop strength in strong men.

He remembers his father mowing with a scythe the grass which grew in the meadow, and harvesting and threshing wheat with a cradle and a flail. He has worn clothing made by his mother from cotton and wool which she had carded and spun, woven and tailored with her own hands. He has studied by the light of a tallow dip or a pine knot.

When a young man of 23 he spent nine months in the saddle traveling from Utah to Old Mexico. Later he spent three years in that country and in 1895 moved there with his family to become general agent for the Mexican Colonization company. Twelve years of residence in Mexico gave him a knowledge of conditions among and a sympathy for leaders of that land, together with a superb knowledge of the language, history, and customs of the people.

His actual schooling consisted of three months of mediocre instruction a year during his boyhood. Books have been his companions over all his adult life. Among his reading was that of law, which later admitted him to the bar of Utah. They said of him that he never lost a case. His studies have included theology, chemistry, mineralogy, and engineering, of which he has a comprehensive understanding.

His studies have given him a comparable mastery of biology, history, political science, and sociology.

He has always been a land owner, a land lover, and a breeder of pure-bred stock. He has acted as town constable, county assessor, councilman, mayor, city attorney, deputy sheriff, a member of the state legislature, and a member of the Utah Constitutional convention. He has risen to high positions in his Church and wields a strong influence in the religious thought of our region, an influence not confined to any particular church.

As agent for Indians of Southern Utah, he earned the reputation put in their own language: "Tony Ivins, he no cheat."

I desire in conclusion to use the words of the yearbook of the college of 1931, which in its dedication paid tribute to the man who has honoured the college and the state these many years by his distinguished service, and upon whom we now bestow the highest honour within the gift of the institution:

"Friend equally of the Indian and of royalty; of the toiler and the captain of industry.

"A frontiersman become modern, but unspoiled by modernism in thought or in living;

"With the heart of a child as hard as steel under the stress of worthy necessity;

"Without diplomas is finely educated;

"Patriot but loyal only to truth, and thus exemplar of the greater Americanism."

AN interview published in the *Deseret News*, in which he told of the many and varied occupations in which he engaged during his lifetime, and expressed his feelings at receiving such a signal honour from the Utah college, affords us a rich glimpse of President Ivins as a personality:

"I have graduated in many occupations, but this is the first time I ever received a degree."

With this comment Anthony W. Ivins, of the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, today recalled much that he had done in a long lifetime of activity, but could not seem to make up his mind which of the many things he had succeeded in, was responsible for the fact that he is to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

"My graduations have been many," he said. "I am a graduate at cooking and dishwashing. Maybe the food was not prepared according to the methods of domestic science, but we never had to throw any of it away.

"Few men have shoveled more dirt in a lifetime than I have in my occupation as a farmer. I have eaten fruit from trees that I have planted in soil where only thistles and sagebrush grew before.

"I am a graduate in blacksmithing. I have shod enough horses to mount a good-sized detail of the United States army. I was an expert at this, and had much of it to do.

"I have read and studied geology until I am familiar with the rocks and their formations. I have read and studied chemistry until I am somewhat of a chemist.

"Although never having studied engineering, I have surveyed and platted land, laid out canals and roads which have met the approval of the government.

"I have fixed broken legs and sewed up scalp wounds and otherwise been a medical doctor, mostly because no one else around could do it any better than I could. I have treated people for nearly all diseases in the catalogue.

"I have served as a lawyer for years, and have convicted many criminals, even though I never had a degree."

With a whimsical smile the white-haired veteran of pioneer days paused to further recollect his "graduated" occupations.

"I guess at one time or another I have done most everything."

"Have you ever worked on a newspaper?" he was asked.

"Yes, I was once editor of a school paper."

In addition to all these occupations, each of which was followed as a means of earning a livelihood, President Ivins has indulged in many hobbies. He says they are not hobbies, but just things he's interested in.

"What is your greatest hobby?"

"Books," he said, readily. "I have travelled all over the world by means of books. I have been in the arctic with Franklin, Kane, Bartlett, Peary, Amundsen and Steffansen. In the antarctic with Shackleton, Byrd and Scott.

"I have been over the long Labrador trail with Dillon and Wallace. Through the Rockies with Bridger, Kit Carson, Bonneville and Fremont. I have been in Kentucky with Boone, and Texas with David Crockett. I have been in Arizona with Frederick Remington.

"I have travelled up and down Mexico with Prescott, Bancroft, Solis and others. I have been to Central America with Stevens and Catherwood.

"I have been up the Amazon and down the Orinoco with Casper Whitney. I have been in Peru with Prescott and Pedro de Leon, and around Cape Horn with Magellan, and the Cape of Good Hope with Vasco de Gama."

That is just a brief sample of his greatest hobby. President Ivins has often told of becoming acquainted with the Bible and other works of Scripture while in the saddle riding range and herding cattle, another of his unmentioned occupations.

When asked what his reaction is to the honour being bestowed upon him, President Ivins thoughtfully said:

"I am quite composed. I am neither elated or depressed, as it comes too late in life to make any material difference. I am, however, grateful for the honour carried with it, and happy to be found worthy to receive it."

When President Ivins goes to Logan to receive his degree he will be accompanied by Mrs. Ivins.

"I would not think of going without her. She has been with me during thick and thin, and in all these things I have talked about she has helped. The honour is as much hers as mine."

WHAT was it that gave Anthony W. Ivins such a remarkable influence among men? What was it that elevated him to the commanding position he held in the eyes of all who knew him, venerated, respected, loved? To what can be ascribed his ability to make friends, his success in developing his gifts and talents? One could, perhaps, name many characteristics that were descriptive of his personality, and it is not difficult to trace the paths he trod to the summit of his achievement; but nothing so simply and so eloquently states the force behind his accomplishments as do his own words, powerful, pregnant with significance to those whose sympathies give them understanding: "I owe all that I have in worldly possessions, health and happiness to the ideals of my religion."

To get a clear picture of what the Church meant to him, we have his own testimony:

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3.)

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3.)

At a very early period in my life I began to read books. At eight years of age I was quite familiar with English history, which was my first interesting study.

(Continued on page 652)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1934

EDITORIAL

CHANGES OF GENERAL AUTHORITIES

OWING to the recent deaths of President Anthony W. Ivins of the First Presidency, and President Charles H. Hart of the First Council of Seventy, vacancies were created that were filled at the semi-annual conference in Salt Lake City on October 6th. The conference sustained J. Reuben Clark, Jr., as first counsellor, and David O. McKay as second counsellor in the First Presidency. Alonzo A. Hinckley was sustained to fill the vacancy in the Council of Twelve, and Rufus K. Hardy to complete the First Council of Seventy. Elder Hinckley was president of the California Mission, and Elder Hardy presided over the New Zealand Mission of the Church.

PRESIDENT ANTHONY W. IVINS

WE invite the attention of all readers of the *Millennial Star* to the leading article in this issue. We hope they will read it with special care, for in this brief sketch of the life and work of President Anthony W. Ivins may be found material and suggestions of great value to all who will use them.

President Ivins was an unusual character. This is perfectly evident when the surroundings and circumstances under which the major part of his life was lived are considered. He had none of the facilities for the acquisition of scholarship and refinement that are available to many young people today—no college, libraries, lecture and reception halls, drawing rooms, etc. Yet he was refined, cultured and scholarly to a high degree. These qualities he attained by unceasing self-efforts and largely while yet a frontiersman wrestling with austere nature in desert-like regions in Southern Utah and Mexico. His attainments under these circumstances demonstrate conclusively that he was an extraordinary man.

His passing removes from mortality one of the greatest men and one of the strongest pillars the Church has known in modern times. Aside from his immediate family, President Grant will miss him most. For he was a daily companion of the President, sitting with him in the office long hours day after day as they considered the innumerable problems of the Church that came to them. And President Grant loved Brother Ivins as if he were a twin brother. The two had been boys together and were always the warmest of friends. President Ivins was absolutely loyal and a pillar of strength to his chief, President Grant.

Now, while President Grant and the Church will greatly miss President Ivins, there has been no undue mourning for the

absent one. President Grant knows with an absolute certainty that President Ivins is not dead. True, there is a temporary separation of mortal body and immortal spirit, but President Ivins still lives. His memory and his influence live among us here while he himself has passed on into the spirit world to join the loved ones who have preceded him—his relatives and saints of the living God. To mourn unduly for the departed would, in a sense, be a refusal to accept of the providences of God, "Who giveth and who taketh away." The whole Church will, in deepest gratitude, be ready to say devoutly, "Praise be to the Lord." For they will thank Him that He gave them President Ivins to live among them, to labour with and lead them, and to teach them, both by precept and by example. They learned much and gained much from him. For all of this they will be truly grateful.

Further, all saints have a strong conviction that President Ivins has not ceased his labours. The Mormon heaven is not a place where saints with crowns on their heads sit eternally around God's throne and forever sing praises to His name. All saints will be forever active, doing cheerfully and always the will of the Father in their assigned places. President Ivins will have his place of activity assigned to him, and he will still be using his abilities and powers in the work of the Lord. Believing in these things, the Latter-day Saints never complain when their loved ones are called from this mortal life, particularly when, as in the case of President Ivins, they have lived a long and highly successful life.

From every point of view President Ivins' life was successful. That it was very useful every one can testify who knew him. He was always engaged in activities designed to benefit his fellow-men—members of the Church and others. But his life was more than useful, and that is why it was successful. He established enduring relationships with the heavens. He knew that he has a Father there, God the Eternal One; that he has a Saviour there, Jesus Christ the Redeemer. Of these truths he frequently and firmly testified. As an example, in a statement for publication at the time of the 82nd anniversary of his birth he said, among other things, the following: "It was my custom (in young manhood) to go to a remote place to pray to the Lord for wisdom that I might understand the things which I read (in the Scriptures). On one of these occasions, after reading the Book of Mormon, the testimony which I desired came to me. That my Redeemer lived and had restored His Gospel through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith the great Prophet of this dispensation, seemed as certain to me as my own existence. The experience of 50 years has confirmed that testimony. I have never been in doubt for a moment, but have waited patiently and happily for the consummation of the work of the Lord and His glorious coming to reign among men, which I know is very near at hand." Such is the recent and last published testimony of President Ivins. God bless his memory.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

SLOGAN COMPETITION ARTICLES SELECTED

ALL LITERARY competitions have three phases, some of which, naturally enough, are more pleasant than others. The first is the contributors' phase, fraught with interest to those whom it involves. Second is the judges' phase—as distracting as the first is interesting. The third is the readers' phase, by far the most popular of all, because it can be enjoyed in peace and leisure, with only a casual thought to the hours of toil and labour that were the lot of its precedents.

Phase number one in the *Milennial Star*—M. I. A. Slogan competition was concluded on October 8th, with contributions pouring in until the last moment. Phase number two was completed a few days later, much to the relief of those upon whom the unhappy and difficult task of judging was placed. Phase number three commences with this issue of the *Star*, and will continue for nine more weeks. Elsewhere appears the first of the ten selected articles. The series title is “My Personal Plan. . . .”

Phase number three, as its contributions will show, has a story to tell about the British Mission. In the first place, it reveals that the slogan has placed a tremendous challenge before the saints of the British Mission. But it shows, too, that they have faced it squarely. Second, it makes evident the fact that throughout the mission the saints are recognizing the great genius of the auxiliary programme of the Church. They are seeing in it a wonderful opportunity to put the slogan into action. Third, it reflects the growing realization among the membership that the Church is a missionary Church, and that we as members, from first to last, must be missionary crusaders for its Cause. And finally, it gives suggestion of the universal vision that is sweeping the entire mission—the vision of a day, not far off, when the Church will take its proper place in Britain as the true Church of Christ, a day that can be brought closer and closer by “actions that prove allegiance to the Church.”

If it reflects this new vision, and places evidence of a new mission-wide determination for action before us in a manner that cannot be mistaken, then the Slogan competition has done all that was hoped for it. Our belief, based on today's article and on the articles in the series that will follow, is that the competition has done just this.

To all who participated in the competition, we offer our thanks. We deeply regret that circumstances have placed a limit on the number of contributions that can be printed, because there were few indeed that did not merit publication. However, for the ten authors whose articles have been selected for our highest compliment—publication in the columns of the *Star*—we will take great pleasure in arranging the promised reward, a year's subscription to the *Milennial Star*.—THE EDITORS.

“MY PERSONAL PLAN”

By GEORGE E. GENT

PRESIDENT OF THE LEICESTER BRANCH

EIGHT hundred and forty feet! The guide conducting a party over the great Post Office wireless station at Rugby on September 22nd assured us that this was the height of the enormous

masts. Inside the building the guide, in a matter-of-fact tone, informed his listeners that "messages are going to New York on this transmitter; this is used for West Indies traffic; this for Australia," and so on.

What a wonderful vision someone had! What work has been done to bring that vision into being; to bring the nations closer together!

Later the same evening, whilst strolling in the nearby village, the writer observed a captured gun on a piece of land, a hideous relic of the great war. Someone else had a vision. Others had brought it into being that men and nations might be destroyed.

THE day's tour furnished a striking contrast. Its lesson value was enhanced the following day when M. I. A. and Primary workers assembled in the Nottingham district conference at Derby and, with the vision of a greater British Mission before them, sought ways to bring it into being.

Prior to this same week-end, a group of M. I. A. workers in the Leicester branch met each Wednesday evening for several weeks to formulate plans whereby this same hope could be realized for Leicester.

The general outline for this plan was first considered. Many suggestions were made, some being discarded in favour of others. Finally, there emerged a concrete scheme to form from among our small number, the nucleus for a Bee-Hive group, and Scout and Gleaner classes, and to re-organize the Primary into its sectional activities.

The next problem was how to establish contact with the potential members of these groups. Send them a personal invitation? Agreed. Ask the children to bring their parents and friends? Certainly. Then visit the homes and have a pleasant time. It was decided that an invitation would be extended to a grand opening rally early in October.

Hosts of other suggestions were made—even to making efficient the lighting of the chapel so that the young people could meet under the best of conditions. Methods of conducting the group interests were discussed, and as far as possible it was arranged for these activities to be sectionalized so that individual attention could be given to each group. In this way and by this plan it is hoped to build up an organization that will be of an enduring nature, both to the British Mission and to the individual lives of young and old.

Mention has not yet been made that this is *my* personal plan to prove my allegiance to the Church. It isn't. Others have helped to form it, and it is theirs as much as it is mine. But I have caught a *personal vision* of what the promotion of this plan of ours can mean. In sitting down with the others to formulate it, I began to see the great genius of the Church auxiliary programmes—that are its inspiration—to prepare the hearts and minds of youth so that they can go out into life and become "transmitters" of a message that will bind nations and individuals, and that will shut out the hideous things that seek to destroy.

This vision has determined for me my personal plan—I shall strive to make it a reality.

ANTHONY W. IVINS—BELOVED AND RESPECTED OF MEN

(Concluded from page 647)

A little later I began the study of the Scriptures. Among the passages which impressed me were those quoted above. Eternal life, I reasoned, was the greatest of all gifts. To attain it, according to the word of the Lord, one must know God, and His Son, Jesus Christ. To even see the kingdom of God, much less enter into it, one must be born again. I asked myself what this new birth consisted of.

I learned, as I read farther, that to know the truth of the doctrines taught by the Redeemer, it is necessary to do the will of the Father. Converted to the truth of this doctrine, a strong conviction came to me that if I were ever to obtain an abiding testimony of the truth of the doctrines of the Gospel it was necessary to live a clean life. I must be truthworthy, temperate, virtuous, in a word, I must do the will of the Father, as the Son had commanded. Then came a careful reading of the Book of Mormon. No book that I had ever read, or have read since, impressed me as did this book.

I read it in connection with works treating upon the archæology of the American continent, and was thoroughly convinced of its divine authenticity and truth. When I read the last chapter of the book I was profoundly impressed with the promise made by Moroni in which he says that any one who would read the things which he has written, and ask the Father in faith believing, shall know the truth by the power of the Holy Ghost.

It was my custom, while making these investigations, to go to a remote place which I had selected and there pray to the Lord for wisdom that I might understand the things which I read. On one of these occasions, after reading the Book of Mormon, the testimony which I desired came to me. A great joy filled my soul. I was very happy. I felt that my transgressions were forgiven, and I loved and forgave everyone. That my Redeemer lived, and had restored His Gospel through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, the great prophet of this dispensation, seemed as certain to me as my own existence.

The Scripture was easy to understand. I knew that the words of the prophets would be fulfilled, the covenant people of the Lord gathered and redeemed, and that the kingdom and coming of the Lord was near.

The experience and observation of fifty years have confirmed that testimony and if possible made it stronger than ever before. I have never been in doubt for a moment, but have waited patiently and happily for the consummation of the work of the Lord and His glorious coming to reign among men, which I know is very near at hand.

I bear testimony that Joseph Smith was and is today the Prophet of this dispensation, the chosen instrument of the Lord, through whom the Gospel has been restored to earth, that its inhabitants may be warned and brought to repentance if they are to avoid the judgments of the Almighty which hangs over them.

PRESIDENT IVINS' discourses and writings will form a part of the permanent literature of the Church. For depth and clearness of thought, for soundness of doctrine, for beauty and simplicity of diction, for magnanimity and tolerance, for the sublime and inspiring faith which permeated them, his sermons are among the best in the Church. Here is an excerpt from among them that is characteristic of his solicitude for those who looked to him for guidance, of his passion for liberty and truth, and of his desire to help others by his experiences :

“It never did make me happy to think of evil, or to talk about it. Yet, when I see conditions existing in the country, this God-given country of ours—which it seems to me are striking at the

very foundations of society, conditions which have resulted in the downfall of nations, or communities, or individuals, wherever they continue—when it seems to me that these conditions are surely, if slowly fastening themselves upon this country of ours, I feel constrained to raise my voice in warning against them.

“I believe that I fully appreciate the value of care and wisdom in handling all great questions, particularly where questions arise in which men and women may conscientiously differ in opinion. I have never desired to be an extremist. I have never liked sensationalism. I have never liked offensive partisanship in anything. I do not like it, even in the advocacy of the work of the Lord, because I do not believe it necessary. But these things against which the Lord has spoken, which are fundamentally wrong, those things against which the servants of the Lord have always warned us—to those things at least, it seems to me, I should feel justified in referring, even at the risk of being misunderstood.

“So that if you will just do the right thing, as your conscience prompts you, the thing that you do, and the thing that you say—if it brings happiness to you, if it brings peace, if it warms your soul and your spirit, you may be pretty well assured that you have not done the wrong thing; and if it brings regret to your heart, if your spirit feels oppressed and heavy, it is a mighty good thing to go and undo that which you have done, and make amends for it, and remember that you do it no more.

“IN no other country of the world is greater liberty granted to its citizens than in the United States of America. In no other country of the world should citizenship be more prized, and the law be so universally upheld and honoured, and yet we are told that we are today the most lawless nation of the world.

“The welfare of the Church, and every other interest and institution of our country, is dependent upon the stability of our civil government, by which our every interest is controlled.

“Prayer is the key which opened this Gospel dispensation, it is the channel through which the Son communed with the Father, through which saints were strengthened to endure and rejoice in persecution, the gateway through which the repentant sinner may find his way back to God.

“I want to say to boys and girls: If you are in trouble, go to the Lord; if you are tempted, go to Him; if you have in an unguarded moment, done that which is wrong, go to the Lord. He will forgive and pardon transgression and sin, no matter though it may have been grave. No persons are so far lost, except they may have committed the unpardonable sin, and that would be exceeding rare, that God's arms are not stretched out to them for their redemption. Our transgressions will be blotted out from the book of His remembrance, our sins will be washed white as wool, through faith in Him, and our hearts will be filled with joy and confidence in ourselves, in each other and in our Father, through the exercise of faith.

“One great difficulty with mankind has been that they have expected the purposes of the Almighty to be accomplished by means different from that which He has used.

“My own observation has taught me that the moment the most highly developed thing is left to itself, left to chance,

without the intelligent application of the intelligence of man, it immediately reverts from what it is to an inferior. So I have reached this conclusion that whatever of development there is in the world, whatever of evolution has come, leading from lesser to greater things, from worse to better conditions, are the result of the intelligence of God, as it is represented in the only created thing that stands in His image in the world."

The simple story of President Ivins' life, from his birthplace at Tom's River to his last home in Salt Lake City, built on the hillside to overlook the valley which he loved so well, hardly suggests the richness that it has encompassed. He came to Utah as a child, remained in Salt Lake City until his ninth year, and then moved to St. George, where for 35 years he made his home. As a young man he did missionary work among the Indians, and in Old Mexico, where he moved in 1895, and for twelve years was president of the Juarez Stake of Zion. In 1907 he was ordained an apostle. At the death of President Anthon H. Lund, in 1921, he was selected to serve as the second counsellor to President Grant in the First Presidency of the Church, and at the death of President Charles W. Penrose, in 1925, he was made President Grant's first counsellor.

But if the outline of his life is simple, he has added details to give it a rounded completeness that has left nothing to be desired. The principles of the Gospel that he accepted in his youth grew stronger within him each passing year. He gave his all to the Church, and how grandly the Church stewarded so great a trust, for it made of him a man among men, a prince of peace, a friend of the lowly and of the mighty. His influence and his personality will remain, not as just a memory among his people, but as a mighty force for righteousness. What he has done he has done well. The friendships and understanding that he promoted among people, both in and out of the Church, the achievements that enhance his name and lend majesty to the institutions of which he was a part—Time will not undo them, but will hallow them, just as Time matured his wisdom and blessed his active years.

The contemplation of a life so glorious, so rich, so reassuring, in an age when it has seemed to become men to forsake godliness in their rise to greatness, gives rise to a happy thankfulness that this generation knew such a man as Anthony W. Ivins.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT CONFERENCE

POWELL BUXTON once said: "The longer I live the more convinced I become that that which makes the difference between one man and another—the strong from the weak—is energy, invincible determination."

This spirit marked the gathering of Latter-day Saints at the Sheffield district conference, held at Sheffield, September 30th, and presaged a successful presentation of the prin-

ciples and opportunities of the Restored Gospel. In attendance were President Joseph F. Merrill, of the European Mission, and President James H. Douglas and Sister Rintha Pratt Douglas, of the British Mission, together with several members of the Mission M.I.A. and Primary boards.

The first session of the conference was opened with an anthem, "Praise the Lord," sung by the dis-

trict choir. Following the presentation, by President George H. Bailey, of the district activity report, which revealed the district to be energetic and progressive, the assembly adjourned to special Priesthood and Relief Society meetings.

The afternoon session, a conference auxiliary convention, was conducted by John I. Holton and Lillian Clark, district Y. M. and Y. W. M. I. A. supervisors, and Winnifred Ludlam, district Primary supervisor. Under their direction, and with the aid of local members of the two organizations, was presented the departmental classifications and the activities of both the M. I. A. and Primary. With this demonstration as an introduction, the visiting members of the Mission boards, Elder George Homer Durham and Brother John Bleakley, Y. M. M. I. A. representatives; Sister Catherine L. M. Horner, Florence Bickerstaff, and Rose B. Bailey, Y. W. M. I. A. executives; and Sisters Nettie L. Woodbury and Celia B. Willmott, Primary board members, unfolded before their listeners the set-up of the auxiliary programme of the Church, and outlined the plans that have been made for its complete adoption in the branches of the British Mission. Special officers' and departmental leaders' meetings were held by the visiting executives immediately following the afternoon session.

The first speaker in the evening session was President Merrill. He

bore convincing witness to the veracity of the claims of Joseph Smith concerning his divine call to open this latter-day dispensation of the Gospel. And in conclusion, with firm conviction and prophetic voice, he predicted that England would be a fruitful field for the development of the great auxiliary programme of the Church.

Sister Douglas spoke of the benefits of her missionary labours to her. She recounted the eternal effects of the first heavenly vision vouchsafed to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

President Douglas spoke of the great power of obedience in every ramification of life, and held obedience to the eternal Gospel principles of the first importance. He pointed out that the miraculous has had a place in the spreading of the Gospel since the beginning, and that the Lord will still exercise His great power to bring the work to a final consummation.

Musical numbers were rendered during the day by Sister Rachel Thompson, Elder Gordon D. Priestley, and the district choir.

In addition to the Mission Authorities, and the mission board members, there were in attendance at the conference President George H. Bailey, Sister Rose B. Bailey, and Elders Herbert T. Edgar, William M. Harvey, Gordon D. Priestley and Frank Ellis, of the Sheffield district.

ROSE B. BAILEY
Clerk of Conference.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfers — Elder John Rowell was transferred from the Scottish district to the Liverpool district on August 1st.

Elder Ralph E. Baddley was transferred from the Scottish district to the European Mission office on September 12th.

Doings in the Districts: Manchester — On Tuesday, September 11th, Manchester branch commenced its M. I. A. season with a splendid programme under the direction of Brother John Craig,

Refreshments were served and dancing completed the successful evening.

Services in the Manchester branch on Sunday, September 23rd, were in the form of a Harvest thanksgiving. The hall was richly decorated with fruit and flowers, and many were present to return thanks to the Lord for His goodness. Special features of the evening's programme were numbers rendered by the branch Primary Children's chorus, under the direction of Sister Margaret Wiles,

Hyde branch Bee-Hive girls were guests at a lovely party given by Sister Elizabeth Cooper at her home on September 19th. Many new and jolly games were played, after which refreshments were served, to complete the happy evening.

Relief Society sisters of the Rochdale branch sponsored a meat-and-potato-pie supper at the branch hall on September 22nd. In charge of the programme of musical numbers and games that followed was Brother George E. Dale.

Hull—Homecoming Day in the Grimsby branch Primary was celebrated on Wednesday September 5th. Approximately thirty parents and friends were entertained by a programme of songs and recitations presented by the children. A one-act sketch entitled "The Beauty Parlour," concluded the entertainment. Directing the evening's social gathering were Sisters E. Hall and E. Walker.

Leeds—The Halifax branch hall was colourfully decorated for the opening M. I. A. social on September 11th. A banquet preceded the social evening. More than forty were in attendance.

Liverpool—Seventy saints and friends danced to the strains of the

A. Stephens Ambassadors at the Nelson branch opening M. I. A. social, Saturday, September 22nd, in the newly renovated branch hall. Following a programme, featuring novelty numbers by Mr. German, a potato-pie supper was served. The hall was dressed in a beautiful costume of green and gold. Brother Robert Pickles, branch president, and Sister May Slater, Y. W. M. I. A. president, arranged the event.

"Exaltation In The Kingdom of God" was the theme of the semi-annual Blackburn branch conference, Sunday, September 16th. The morning meeting was supervised by Sister Alice Preston, Sunday School superintendent, and included talks by Brother and Sister Henry Smith. Brother Eddie Preston, branch president, conducted the evening session, which included talks by Brother Walter Thompson and district authorities. A report of the conference was recorded in the *Northern Daily Telegraph* by a reporter who attended the conference.

Nottingham—A cottage meeting was held at the home of Sister Ivy Fletcher of the Eastwood branch on September 19th. Elder Walter K. Barton was in charge of the service.

DEATH

DUERDEN—Mr. George Duerden, aged 76, for many years a friend of missionaries and saints of Blackburn, died on September 17th. Funeral services were conducted by

President Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr., Saturday, September 22nd, at the family residence. Elder John Rowell dedicated the grave.

CONTENTS

Anthony W. Ivins—Beloved and Respected of Men ...	641	Slogan Competition Articles Selected ...	650
Editorials: Changes of General Authorities ...	648	"My Personal Plan. . ."	650
President Anthony W. Ivins	648	Sheffield District Conference...	654
		From the Mission Field...	655

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